

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTV #0205/01 0281129
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 281129Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5217
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0209
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 3120
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 7196
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 7385
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 6618
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 5312
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 7482
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4235
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2460
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 1112
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 8647
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 3644
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 7616
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 9719
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 2438
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 3621
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 000205

STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR X0XX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

All major Hebrew language newspapers today highlight (mostly on their front pages) the incident where a shoe was thrown at Supreme Court President Judge Dorit Beinisch in the courtroom. Pini Cohen, the Israeli who perpetrated the attack, scored a direct hit on the

unsuspecting president, striking her in the face, knocking her off her chair and breaking her glasses. A second shoe that he threw missed its mark, however. Cohen, who described Beinisch as "corrupt" and a "traitor" as he was being dragged away by security guards, apparently has a history of hostility towards the courts and lawyers as a result of a painful divorce. The attack on Beinisch, who recovered and returned to work shortly after the incident, produced a wave of condemnations from across the political spectrum.

Most commentators who opined about the incident are inclined to see the attack on Beinisch in the context of the perceived surge in and prevalence of violence in Israeli society. Eitan Haber in Yediot describes Israel as being on a "slippery slope on the way to chaos," while Ben Caspit comments in Maariv that the thug who threw his shoe represents what has happened to Israeli society in the past ten years: the violence that has spread into every part of it. Dalia Dorner, the current president of the Israel Press Council, linked the attack to the mounting criticism of the court in the media (a notion angrily rejected by Caspit), but Nahum Barnea comments in Yediot that Beinisch, unlike all of the above, viewed the attack on her to have been the act of a disturbed individual and not as something that necessarily reflects the zeitgeist of Israel in 2010.

The newspapers also report on President Shimon Peres's visit to Berlin and his speech in Hebrew before the German parliament yesterday in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, in addition to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's speech in Auschwitz-Birkenau. The speeches are excerpted by the local media, which also provide a smattering of commentary about their content and the context in which they were given.

Block Quotes:

Mideast:

II. "Iraq, the Israeli Branch"

Eytan Haber, veteran op-ed writer and assistant to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, opined in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (1/28): "Perhaps you remember where shoes were recently thrown at a person from the regime? That's right, in Iraq. We can only say about the turn of events yesterday in Jerusalem ... that we have come to resemble Iraq. There was no king in Iraq in those days and everyone did as they saw fit.... The State of Israel is sliding down a slippery slope into chaos. In Israel too, so it would seem, everyone does as he sees fit and no one is there to stop him.... The authorities and the law enforcement agencies have lost control. There is no longer any fear of the law. They shoot here in the streets. How much worse can it get? The latest fad word is governance, which is utterly absent. Bureaucracy eats us alive, law enforcement is disregarded, the police have despaired, the courts are lenient, and the sense is that there is no one in charge. The man who threw his shoes at the president of the Supreme Court yesterday is just one manifestation of the disorganized mess we have here."

II. "Death of the Zionist Left"

Conservative columnist Nadav Haetzni wrote in the popular, pluralist Maariv (1/28): "Without ceremonies and eulogies, the Zionist left wing passed away and was buried in silence. In the past months, there has been an increase in the Left wing protest concerning what is called the "settlement in Sheikh Jarrah." This protest bonfire has served as a rallying point for a coalition composed of international anarchists, boycott-prone Israelis ... (and) also the leaders of Peace Now, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and prominent figures ... such as Yossi Sarid and Avraham Burg.... Suddenly, in a few words spoken by the coalition of Sarid and

company, the courts and the police are the real enemies, and the

rule of law-is no more than fascist tyranny. They argue that the Jews should be dispossessed from their property, because we all dispossessed the Arabs from their property within the Green Line.... Their position negates the basic principle of the return to Zion. Various people on the Left - apparently such as Yossi Sarid and Avraham Burg - still call themselves Zionists, but in light of their current views, their insistence on the word "Zionist" is pathetic at most. This line separates between those who continue to believe in the justification of establishing the State of Israel and our right to the land and those who have adopted the narrative and worldview of the enemy. On the Zionist side of this border line, there no longer remains anything of the camp that was known in the past as the 'Left wing.'"

III. "Badge of Terror "

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (1/28): "There is no way to describe the settlers' attack on the Palestinian village of Bitilu but as a well-planned terror attack. The settlers' "military" organization and violent resistance ... are no different from the activities of other terrorist organizations. These are not unusual acts. The term "price tag" ... has long been adopted by the settlers and transformed to mean retaliation against the Israeli government's policy.... One cannot but be amazed by the IDF Spokesman Office's watered-down response to the settlers' terror attack. But the IDF's evasive terminology is not to blame when the Knesset is enacting a law to pardon the transgressors who rioted during the Gaza disengagement. This law ... is now legitimizing the "price tag" actions. The government is not permitted to protect these offenders and must treat their actions as acts of terror, unless it wants to be seen as their partner."

MORENO